

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 249

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Rachel Elizabeth Cohen,  
2007 Valedictorian of Ridgeway High School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to academic excellence, have distinguished themselves in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Elizabeth Cohen is one such exceptional student who was recently named Valedictorian of the 2007 graduating class at Ridgeway High School (RHS); and

WHEREAS, through diligent study, steady composure during examinations, and steadfast commitment of time and talent, Ms. Cohen has achieved outstanding academic success and has joined the ranks of the best and brightest students in Tennessee and our country; and

WHEREAS, in her remarkable high school career, Ms. Cohen has earned an exemplary 5.15 grade point average, while participating in numerous extracurricular activities, including Beta Club, Spanish Club, Community Fund Committee, Jewish Student Association, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, and dance lessons; and

WHEREAS, a natural leader in spite of her young age, Rachel Cohen has participated in the RHS Student Council, for which she has served as Treasurer/Secretary and on the Katrina Fundraiser Publicity Committee; the Ridgeway National Honor Society, for which she has served as Chapter Secretary; and the B'nai Brith Youth Organization, for which she has served as Freshman Creativity Programming Chairwoman, Chapter Secretary, Chapter Vice President/Programming Coordinator, Chapter President, Chapter Newspaper Editor, Formal Chairwoman, and Beau Party Chairwoman, and from which she has received several awards, including Regional Best Four-Year Member; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and honors, Ms. Cohen has received the Highest GPA Award, the Studio Art B.U.I.L.D.E.R. Award, the AP English B.U.I.L.D.E.R. Award, the

Honors Spanish III Academic Achievement Award, the Yale Book Award, and the Studio Art Poster Contest Honorable Mention; a national Merit Finalist and an Advanced Placement Scholar, Ms. Cohen has been further recognized in *Who's Who Among American High School Students*, on the RHS Principal's Honor Roll, and with summa cum laude honors from St. Mary's Episcopal School; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her worthy scholastic and extracurricular pursuits, Ms. Cohen finds time to give back to her community through volunteering with the Memphis Jewish Community Center Early Child Department Camp, the Angel Tree Project, the Memphis Union Mission, Temple Israel Mitzvah Day, Plough Towers Assisted Living Facility, Memphis City Schools, the Charity Play, the Hadassah Breast Cancer Walk/Run, and the Exchange Club Family Center; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cohen's display of intellectual aptitude and ambition surely bodes well for her future success in medical research in neuropsychology; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Cohen's noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for her parents, Hallie and Jay Cohen, her school, and her community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cohen's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and honor the 2007 Ridgeway High School Valedictorian, Rachel Elizabeth Cohen, on her impressive academic achievement and extend to her our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.